

## QUICK FACTS

# PIERCE'S DISEASE AND GWSS

### *Homalodisca coagulata*

Adults are 1/2-inch long, dark brown color with small yellow dots on head and thorax. Wing membranous, translucent, with reddish veins.

GWSS is a sucking insect that extracts fluid from host plants. This feeding can spread lethal diseases to host plants just as mosquitoes can transmit malaria in humans. The pest is highly mobile and can feed on and spread disease to many plants in a day.

### *Xylella fastidiosa*

Pierce's Disease (grapes)  
Almond leaf scorch (almonds)  
Alfalfa dwarf (alfalfa)  
Oleander leaf scorch (oleander)  
Phony peach disease (peaches)  
Plum leaf scald (plums)  
Citrus variegated chlorosis (citrus)

The bacterium attacks a plant's xylem (water-conducting vessels), clogging it

Since at least the 1880s, when it wiped out 40,000 acres of winegrapes in the Los Angeles Basin

Over 100 species of plants

1989

Southeastern United States and northeastern Mexico.  
Range has extended into southern and central California

**14:** Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Solano, Tulare, Ventura

\$14 billion in farmgate value of affected crops

For more information, contact Brown-Miller Communications at  
(925) 370-9777 or [bmc@brownmillerpr.com](mailto:bmc@brownmillerpr.com)



\* partial disease list

**PD/GWSS BOARD**

Scientific name of GWSS: Description of GWSS:

How damage is caused:

Bacterium spread by GWSS:

Diseases\* vectored by GWSS (strains of *Xylella fastidiosa*):

How disease kills plants:

How long Pierce's disease has been in state:

GWSS host plants:

GWSS first sighted in California:

Distribution:

Number of counties with GWSS-infested areas (2004):

Threat to state: